

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

BILL: SR172

Bill Hearing

Date: Monday, April 4, 2022

Time: 3:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

SUPPORT

Thank you, Chairpersons, for providing me this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of bill SR172.

My name is Judy Soloai and I represent myself. I am an international graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am from Aotearoa known as New Zealand. I have chosen to embark on my educational journey in our neighboring pacific islands, Hawai'i. I study social work because of my passion for our pacific nations including the Marshall Islands. Our ancestors nourished our lands with so much mana (power), so that our pacific people can be fed from the land not harmed by it. Due to the invasion of the Japanese and destruction of World War II, Eniwetok islands and its inhabitants were invaded, starved, and harmed. Once the United States captured the Eniwetok islands and used their lands as a nuclear testing field the consequences fell into the lives of the Marshallese people. They suffered many severe health disparities that have replicated through generations. Their land has become wasteful, and more Marshallese people now live in Hawai'i than in their own islands. March 10th, "Liberation" day celebrates the US defeating the Japanese. It is a significant day towards celebrating independence for Marshallese people residing in Hawai'i. This allows the pacific nations, United states, and Marshallese people to reunite, rejoice and remember together. By passing this bill it will help our smaller pacific nations that have been affected by colonialism to be remembered and respected as we continue to move with sovereignty.

I declare that what I have written in this testimony is true and correct.

4/1/2022



Judy Soloai